

Compton, CA -- Congresswoman Linda Sánchez presented the Compton Unified School District with a \$134,152 check on November 6 to expand its successful “Young Scholars Program.”

“I am proud to bring these federal dollars to such a deserving program,” said Congresswoman Sánchez. “I have been impressed with the Young Scholars Program and look forward to seeing all the good things it will do for local students.”

Young Scholars is an after-school enrichment program that helps young boys in the fifth and sixth grades by providing them with mentors, speakers and field trips, strategies for resolving conflicts, and generally helping them stay focused on doing well in school. The program has been in effect for four years already in the Compton USD serving two elementary schools and one middle school. The funds secured by Congresswoman Sánchez will enable the program to expand for two years to Anderson, Jefferson, and King elementary schools, and Bunche and Willowbrook middle schools.

“Our children need our help, our support and our commitment. This program provides all three,” continued Congresswoman Sánchez. Congresswoman Sánchez secured the federal funding in the 2008 omnibus appropriations bill, passed by Congress and signed by the president.

Compton USD celebrated Congresswoman Sánchez' presentation of the new federal funds with a ceremony at Bunche Middle School attended by over 150 students, parents, and school staff, including School Board member Marjorie Shipp and Superintendent Kaye Burnside. The audience heard speeches from two of the young scholars and music from a student jazz band.

The funding for these programs is in addition to other efforts made by Congresswoman Sánchez to develop her Safe Kids Agenda, a set of bills designed to give students the support they need to stay in school so they can achieve their dreams. The Safe Kids Agenda is based on the simple idea that schools and communities should work to protect children from bullying and harassment and other dangers.